(c) if so, the details there of and what would be the new administrative mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a)The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) pledged to devolve full managerial and commercial autonomy to successful, profit-making companies operating in a competitive environment. The Guidelines relating to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) have been periodically reviewed and progressively reduced so that the CPSEs can function with the required autonomy and Government interface with the CPSEs would be minimized to very important policy issues. However, Presidential Directives are issued by the administrative Ministries to the CPSEs under their control on policy issues requiring a uniform approach and whenever the situation so warrants.

(b) and (c) In pursuance of the pledge made in the NCMP, the Government has since *inter alia,* delegated enhanced powers with regard to joint venture formation to the Boards of Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs and instructions in this regard have been issued on 5.8.2005.

Cancellation of Blocks Allotted to ONGC

†796. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that 5 blocks given to ONGC for mining which were located at Krishna-Godavari basin have been taken back for irregularities;

(b)if so, the details thereof and the reasons for taking these blocks back from ONGC;

(c)whether it has been decided to reallocate these blocks under NELP VII; and

(d)if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) In April, 2000, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) was given NELP terms to enable it to seek strategic alliances to explore and develop 6 deep water blocks which included 3 blocks in the Krishna Godavari Basin, *viz.,* KG-OS-DW, KG-OS-DW-Extn. and KG-OS-DW-III. The validity of license in respect of one of these 3 blocks has already expired while the other 2 blocks are due to expire in Januaryand May, 2007. However, it was only in 2006 that ONGC approached this Ministry seeking "in principle" approval to have strategic alliance with British Gas, in respect of these 3 KG blocks. ONGCs offer of these blocks does not seem to have been able to generate sufficient inerest among bidders, whereas under NELP offerings, extremely keen competition has been witnessed particularly for all KG blocks.

Considering these factors, within the overall exploration policy of the government of India regarding a level playing field and emphasis on transparency, it has been decided to offer these blocks in the ensuing rounds of NELP upon expiry of their Petroleum Exploration License validity.

Profit earned by Indian Oil Corporation

†797. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during May, 2006 Indian Oil Corporation had earned 11 dollars per barrel through refining the crude oil;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this dividend was at 9 dollars per barrel during the first quarter of the year 2006;

(d) if so, whether it is also a fact that this is the maximum profit earned by the Corporation till date; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b)The Gross Refining Margin (GRM) of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for the month of May, 2006 was US$ 8.92 per barrel after considering the discount to Marketing Companies on Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD), Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

(c) The GRM of IOCL for the first quarter (April-June, 2006) was US$ 6.70 per barrel after considering the discount to Marketing Companies on MS, HSD, SKO and LPG.

(d) and (e) The results of the first quarter of the year 2006-07 are yet to be declared. The information, on receipt, will be laid on the Table of the House.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.